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3 A FIBER OPTIC SWITCH EMPLOYING OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

6 A method and apparatus of switching a digital signal from a
7 single input optical fiber to one or more optical fibers
8 comprising the steps of providing an input signal into the input
9 optical fiber, splitting the input optical fiber to form a
10 plurality of split optical fibers each carrying the input
11 signal, amplifying the signal in at least one of the plurality
12 of split optical fibers with a laser activated amplifier, and
13 then attenuating the signal in all of the split optical fibers
14 to produce at least one output signal in one or more of the
15 designated split optical fibers.